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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of presenting a user with selection of items, wherein each item is characterized as being a member of one category selected from a plurality of categories, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a number of categories which are to be represented in a display;

determining a number of selections which can be presented at one time in the display, a selection being either an item or a category;

displaying at least one item label and at least one category label, where the category label represents the items in the category, where the items and categories displayed are determined as a function of the number of categories, the number of selections and a threshold count, wherein items from categories with no more than the threshold count are represented by individual item labels and items from categories with more than the threshold count are collectively represented by one of the at least one category labels.

- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of accepting user input selection of either an item label or a category label.
- 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of generating a regenerated display following the selection of a label, wherein the regenerated display is a display filtered according to the selected label.
- 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of setting the threshold count to a value which is calculated to fill the display with labels.
- 5. A method of presenting a user with selection of items, wherein each item is characterized as being a member of one category selected from a plurality of categories, the method comprising the steps of:



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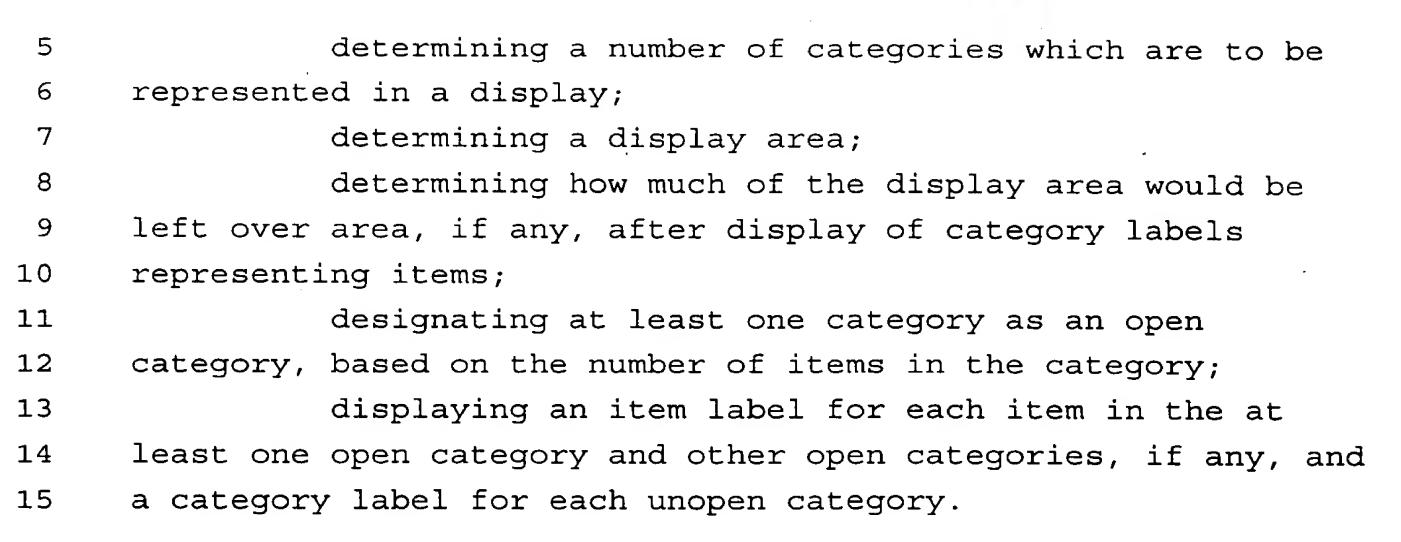
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- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of designating at least one category as an open category is a step of designating categories as open from the smallest category to the largest category until a category is reached which will result in a display of item labels and category labels which will fill but not exceed a display area.
- 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising steps of:

when a cursor is over a category label, displaying summary information about the items in the category associated with the category label; and

when the cursor is over an item label, displaying detailed information about the item associated with the item label.

